



TAKING A BOW – Hunting is “all about being outdoors” to Duxbury resident Tim King, who was one of the first local hunters to take advantage of the town’s new hunting policy. King brought a portable tree stand down to the Camp Wing conservation land as required by the Conservation Commission. King says bow hunting is extremely difficult, and that most of the bow hunters he knows have shot over ten-thousand practice shots before actually going out into the woods.

Deer Hunting Season Opens on Town Parcels

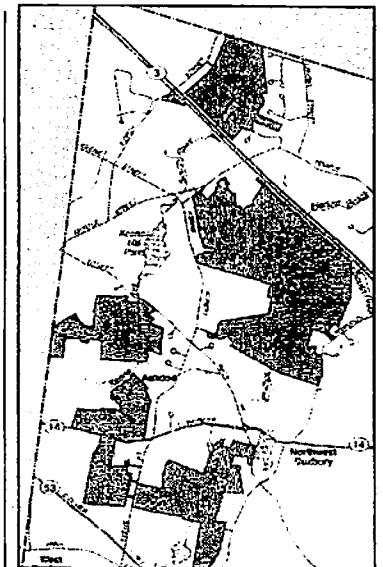
By **CLAIRE MASSIMO**

For the first time in recent town history, deer hunters are now allowed on four parcels of town-owned conservation land.

After a vote by the town’s Conservation Commission last Tuesday, limited deer hunting is now permissible in the South River Bogs, Ashdod Forest, Camp Wing and portions of Trout Farm. In total, 915 acres of conservation land are now open to hunting.

According to Conservation Agent Joe Grady, the only area opened to hunting that has a walking trail near it is the Camp Wing area. Grady posted a

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Bow hunting is now allowed on 915 acres of Duxbury’s conservation land (shaded areas).

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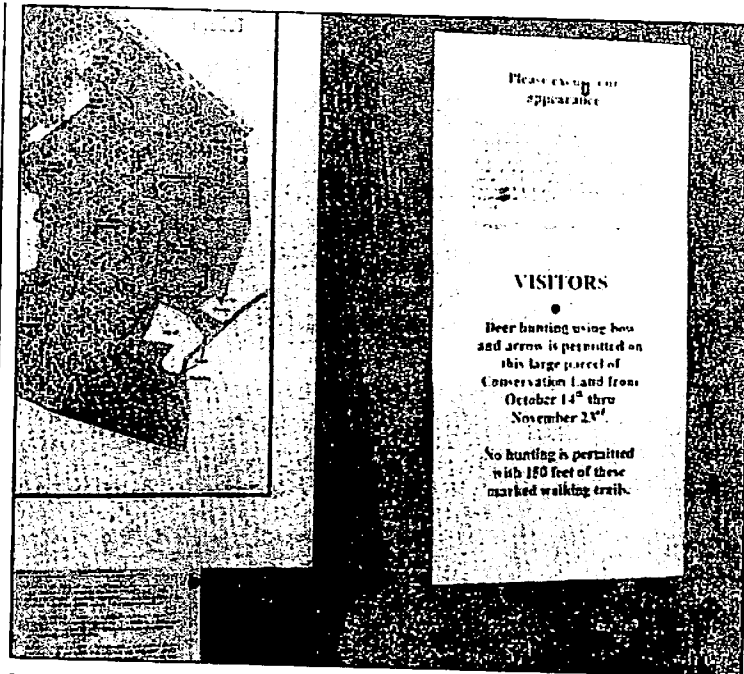
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bright yellow notice on the board at the entrance to the trail, notifying walkers that hunting is now allowed.

The deer hunting regulations adopted by the commission include several restrictions. Hunting by bow and arrow only is permitted, hunters must shoot from portable tree stands ten to thirty feet high, and no hunting is permitted within 150 feet of any marked walking trail.

Bow hunting is very difficult, hunters say.

"You have to shoot from less than 25 or 30 yards, or you won't have any accuracy. You won't see a bow hunter out here who hasn't shot at least ten thousand practice shots in his back yard," said Tim King, Bayridge Lane.



A bright yellow notice warns visitors to the Camp Wing area that bow hunting is permitted from Oct. 14th through Nov. 23rd.

King was heading into the Camp Wing area Tuesday for his first day of deer hunting.

"I've hunted duck and quail before, but not deer. This is a natural extension," King said.

An all-around sportsman, King equated bow hunting with fishing.

"It's worse than fishing. At least I know when I fish I'll catch some stripers. Deer are elusive. They like to go into the depths of the woods, where hunters don't like to go because it's all brambles and the like," King said.

The key to successful deer hunting is quiet and patience, King said. Regardless of his results, however, he expected to thoroughly enjoy his day.

"It's all about being outside. Enjoying the leaves, enjoying the woods," King said. On the first really chilly day of the year, he was dressed in many layers for warmth during his many hours perched on his portable tree stand.

Many others in town have voiced opposition to deer hunting, for either safety or philosophical reasons.

"I don't live near [the hunting areas]. I'm just against it," Inspectional Services Director Richard MacDonald said.

Richard Marnell, Union Bridge Road, summed up the feelings of many residents in a letter to this newspaper last

week. "Access to conservation land in my neighborhood without fear is something I paid a premium for," Marnell wrote.

"People are wearing us out with this. They don't realize that deer hunting already goes on in Duxbury on private land. Fifteen deer were killed in Duxbury last year," Grady said.

The commission did vote to remove access restrictions to the conservation land for hunting purposes only. Usually, access to all conservation land is

restricted from sunrise to sunset. Hunting hours, however, are one-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset, Grady said. The removal of the restriction allows hunters to enter the properties early to set up their tree stands.

"We didn't adopt any regulations that don't already exist through the state," Grady said.

Tracking of deer killed by hunters is also controlled by the state, Grady said.